

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.
NEWSLETTER NO.173.

July 1980.

Next months meeting.

The next meeting is a talk by Dick G3WHR and Chris G8HDR about the 1296 MHz band. There will be practical demonstrations of home built gear and hints and tips on how to get on to this exciting and little used band. Chris and Dick are both experts in SHF, so come along to the Marconi College, Arbour Lane at 7.30 p.m. on July 1st for a very informative and enjoyable evening.

Committee Meeting.

Wednesday July 9th, 7.30 p.m. Wheatsheaf, New Street. A free beer will be available to any member who has never been to a committee meeting before.

N.F.D. Results.

We seem to have done reasonably well in this years N.F.D. on 80m, 278 stations were worked on this band. Unfortunately, owing to lack of operators the other station was not used very much, but it gave G8's and newly licenced G4's a chance to see what HF is all about.

Visit to P.H.Q.

Another visit to Communications section of P.H.Q. has been arranged. The next twelve members who gave me their names last year are as follows :-

G3WHR, G3KRZ, G3PMX, E.Martyr, G5IX, M.Pemberton, G8JAU, G3LVP, G3CVI, G3KTF, E.Parker, G3EDM.

The date is Tuesday September 16th at 7.00 p.m. at P.H.Q. Will the above members please contact me to confirm they are still available on that day.

D.F.

Results of Junes events are not to hand as we go to press, but this months event is on July 20th at 2.00 p.m. behind Galleywood Church. Colchester D.F. July 25th, 7.30 p.m. Fordham Heath. Please note we are still short of operators, so if you would like to be the hidden station, please contact me as soon as possible.

Last months meeting.

The 1980 Constructors Competition produced a wide range of equipment, 12 entries in all. Construction was of a very high standard, and the judges had an extremely difficult time selecting the winners, so difficult in fact, that the third prize had to be split between two contestants. Results were as follows :-

Third. Dick May with his HF ATU and Bill Cole with his portable collapsible 2m aerial.

Second. Geoff Mills with his aerial noise bridge.

First. Peter Neave with his bench power supply.

Congratulations to the prize winners and commiserations and thanks to the other contestants. Its a shame not everyone could win as the entries were all well constructed.

Don't forget the constructors competition next June. Start building now and be sure of a place in the running for 1981.

Report on trip to Ongar.

On 27th May a group of 15 of us arrived at Ongar Radio Station at 7 O'Clock in the evening.

After initial introduction, we were first shown into the main transmitter room. In here were eight 20 KW transmitters and six 30 KW's.

Each TX is remotely controlled and can tune itself up with the aid of servos and small motors. It was quite amusing to watch the knobs on the front panel spinning round by themselves.

Coming from the top of each unit appeared to be water pipe, about 1½" in diameter. This turned out to be the coax, and we were shown a piece later. With the inner about 3/8" diameter, and any bends specially built, the feeders were certainly a plumbers dream.

Next we saw the aerial changeover matrix. This consisted of a matrix of changeover relays, about 10 feet square with transmitter feeds coming in horizontally and aerial feeders going out vertically. By arranging the relays in either "straight through" or "Right angle turn" any transmitter could be connected to any aerial.

The dummy load for 30 KW, you would probably expect to fill a whole room, in fact it is in a room of its own, but it is the cooling equipment that is large, about 10ft high by 6ft by 6ft. The dummy load itself is no more than 2ft long by 2" diameter and most of that is the water jacket.

Also at Ongar is some very old Marconi equipment, and we were allowed to see inside - an impressive sight. When one of these was fired up and keyed, the fluorescent tubes near the aerial loading coil flickered in sympathy, and one member managed to get a spark to jump from the lead in his pencil to a metal frame near the coil. There certainly was a lot of RF floating around then. Rumour has it that one or two people are now looking for new digital watches !

Finally we visited the aerial farm outside. Those masts make any amateur tower look like beansticks. New aerials have recently been installed. These are very broadband beams, covering all the HF bands, and are capable of being rotated.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all and our thanks go to the staff of Ongar.

Other news.

Did you see the report on N.F.D. in Mondays evening Herald and Fridays Essex Chronicle. Unfortunately, we apparently operated on 8m ! but not to worry. The main thing is that the name of the club was brought to the attention of a few more people in the area.

Our congratulations go to G8DNO and G8SZN for passing their CW test. By the time you receive this newsletter your scribe would have taken his test, so here's hoping.

Sadly, Mike G8DNO is leaving the area soon, to take a new post with Big M in Portsmouth. All the best for the future Mike. This means that we will be without an area representative. If anyone feels they would like this post, contact any member of the Committee. Alternatively you may like to nominate someone. 5 nominations are required to elect an area rep.

Places for the trip to Woburn on Sunday 3rd August are going fast, so contact John G8DET or myself as soon as possible to reserve a seat.

Looking ahead a bit now, October brings the A.G.M. and Junk Sale, so start thinking of nominations for the new Committee, who you would like to see on the Committee, and who you would like to see off !! Also or course, get those shacks cleared out and surplus gear sorted out ready for the Junk Sale.

Finally, this newsletter is the product of one person - ME !, so please lads, lets have some articles for publication - it will make my task a great deal easier.

Thats all for this month. See you on July 1st, and don't forget the raffle.

73,

Andrew.

Braintree 23821 (Day)
Silver End 83094 (Any other time)
or GB3ER or 144.30 MHz.

9, Abraham Drive,
Silver End.
Witham.

Wanted. 2 Gang variable C. 250pF + 250pF transmitter spacing for use in Z-match ATU. Contact J.Row, Chelmsford 67111 Ext.2523, or 02555 7691 in the evenings.

For Sale. Pye base station 5763 to 3-20A, PSU built in. Tuning meter on front panel.

Creed 7E teleprinter. Terminal unit and PSU.
Offers to G8KQE.

Late News. Mikes new call is G4JXO.